CLAIMS:

1. A panel assembly for a modular office furniture system, the panel assembly comprising:

a rigid frame assembly;

a facing panel assembly;

means for mounting the facing panel assembly to the rigid frame assembly whereby an unobstructed cavity is formed between the rigid frame assembly and the facing panel assembly; and

a crown member attached to a top portion of the rigid frame assembly, the crown member adapted to mount thereon office furniture accessories.

2. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the rigid frame assembly comprises a plurality of vertical supports having opposing sides and a pair of bottom facing panels, each of said bottom facing panels attached to each of said opposing sides whereby a box beam structure is fabricated to form the rigid frame assembly.

3. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, therein the facing panel assembly is comprised of a plurality of individual facing panel members, and said mounting means comprises means for individually mounting each of said plurality of facing panel members to the rigid frame assembly such that individual unobstructed cavities are formed between the rigid frame assembly and each of said plurality of facing panels.

4. The panel assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein each of said plurality of facing panels includes a front side and a mounting side, the mounting side adapted to attach said facing panels to the rigid frame assembly.

5. The panel assembly as recited in claim 4, wherein each of said facing panels further comprises a top portion and a bottom portion and said means for individually mounting each of said plurality of facing panels comprises a plurality of support brackets attached to the rigid frame assembly and, each of said plurality of support brackets having means for engaging the mounting sides of the facing panels.

6. The panel assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the mounting side of said facing panels further comprises a first panel mounting clip attached to the top portion of the mounting side and a second panel mounting clip attached to the bottom portion of the mounting side.

7. The panel assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of support brackets further comprises top support brackets, bottom support brackets and intermediate support brackets.

8. The panel assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein said top support brackets are adapted to be attached to the top portion of said facing panels, said bottom support brackets are adapted to be attached to the bottom portion of said facing panels, and said intermediate support brackets are adapted to be attached to the top portion of one of said facing panels and to the bottom portion of another of said facing panels.

9. The panel assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the rigid frame assembly comprises a plurality of vertical supports having opposing sides and a pair of bottom facing panels, each of said bottom facing panels secured to each of said opposing sides whereby a box beam structure is fabricated to form the rigid frame assembly.

10. The panel assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said bottom support brackets are also adapted to be mechanically secured to said bottom facing panels.

11. The panel assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein said plurality of facing panels are removably mounted to said rigid frame assembly.

12. The panel assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said intermediate support brackets further comprise an upper facing panel attachment member adapted to be pivotally attached to the top portion of the one of said facing panels and a lower facing panel attachment member adapted to be frictionally attached to the bottom portion of the other of said facing panels.

13. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the rigid frame assembly further comprises base members for supporting the panel assembly in a freestanding manner.

14. The panel assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein the facing panel assembly comprises a plurality of individual facing panel members, said plurality of facing panel members

being individually mounted on the rigid frame assembly between the crown member and said bottom facing panels.

15. The panel assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein a plurality of individual facing panel members are mounted between the crown member and said bottom facing panels such that a first horizontal joint exists between one of said individual facing panel members and one of said bottom facing panels and a second horizontal joint exists between another of said individual facing panel members and the crown member.

16. The panel assembly as recited in claim 15, further comprising a third horizontal joint between said one individual facing panel member and said another individual facing panel member, whereby said horizontal joints provide a passageway for cabling.

17. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the crown member comprises an upper angled clamping surface, a lower angled clamping surface and an inclined mounting surface therebetween such that the lower angled clamping surface is generally spaced apart from the rigid frame assembly, the crown member adapted to engage a mounting bracket having a complimentary engagement surface for supporting office furniture accessories thereon.

18. The panel assembly as recited in claim 17, wherein the mounting bracket comprises an upmount bracket.

19. A wall spine for a modular office furniture system, the wall spine comprised of a plurality of individual panel assemblies, each of said plurality of individual panel assemblies comprising:

a rigid frame assembly having a left end and a right end;

a facing panel assembly;

means for mounting the facing panel assembly to the rigid frame assembly;

a crown member attached to a top portion of the rigid frame assembly, the crown member adapted to mount thereon office furniture accessories; and

wherein the left end of one of said individual panel assemblies is adapted to be secured to the right end of another of said individual panel assemblies.

20. The wall spine as recited in claim 19, wherein the facing panel assembly is comprised of a plurality of facing panels, each of said plurality of facing panels being individually mounted to the rigid frame assembly whereby a cavity is formed between the rigid frame assembly and each of said plurality of facing panels.

21. The wall spine as recited in claim 20, wherein each of said plurality of facing panels includes a front side and a mounting side, the mounting side adapted to attach said facing panels to the rigid frame assembly.

22. The wall spine as recited in claim 21, wherein each of said facing panels further comprises a top portion and a bottom portion and said means for individually mounting each of said plurality of facing panels comprises a plurality of support brackets attached to the rigid

frame assembly and, each of said plurality of support brackets having means for engaging the mounting sides of the facing panels.

23. The wall spine as recited in claim 22, wherein the mounting side of said facing panels further comprises a first panel mounting clip attached to the top portion of the mounting side and a second panel mounting clip attached to the bottom portion of the mounting side.

24. The wall spine as recited in claim 22, wherein said plurality of support brackets comprises top support brackets and bottom support brackets.

25. The wall spine as recited in claim 24, further comprising a left end top support bracket, a right end top support bracket, a left end bottom support bracket and a right end bottom support bracket, means for rigidly attaching the left end top bracket of the one of said individual panel assemblies with the right top support bracket of the other of said individual panel assemblies and means for rigidly attaching the left end bottom support bracket of one of said individual panel assemblies and the right end bottom support bracket of the other of said individual panel assemblies.

26. The wall spine as recited in claim 20, further comprising an end post adapted to be mounted to either of said left or right ends, said end post being horizontally adjustable with respect to said right frame assembly.

27. A crown member for an office panel system, the crown member comprising means for attaching the crown member to a top portion of a panel assembly, an upper angled clamping surface, a lower angled clamping surface and an inclined mounting surface therebetween such that the lower angled clamping surface is generally spaced apart from the panel assembly whereby the crown member generally projects in an upward orientation, the crown member adapted to engage a mounting bracket having a complimentary engagement surface such that the mounting bracket supports office furniture accessories thereon.

28. The crown member as recited in claim 27, wherein the crown member further comprises an attachment channel disposed below the lower angled clamping member.

29. The crown member as recited in claim 28, wherein the crown member further comprises a recessed channel disposed adjacent the upper angled clamping member and adapted to receive a vertical panel therein.

30. The crown member as recited in claim 27, wherein the crown member is disposed on a first surface on the top portion of the panel assembly.

31. The crown member as recited in claim 30, further comprising a second upper angled clamping surface, a second lower angled clamping surface and a second inclined mounting surface therebetween disposed on a second surface on the top portion of the panel assembly, the second surface being directly opposite the first surface.

32. The crown member as recited in claim 27, wherein the crown member is adapted to engage an upmount bracket for upmounting accessories thereon.

33. The crown member as recited in claim 27, wherein the crown member is adapted to engage a downmount bracket for downmounting accessories thereon.

34. A crown member for an office panel system, the crown member comprising:

means for attaching the crown member to a top portion of a panel assembly;

a first upmount portion disposed on a first surface of the panel assembly and comprised of a first upper angled clamping surface, a first lower angled clamping surface and a first inclined mounting surface therebetween such that the first lower angled clamping surface is generally spaced apart from the panel assembly whereby the first upmount portion generally projects in an upward orientation;

a second upmount portion disposed on a second surface of the panel assembly and comprised of a second upper angled clamping surface, a second lower angled clamping surface and a second inclined mounting surface therebetween disposed on a second surface on the top portion of the panel assembly, the second surface being directly opposite the first surface; and

a recessed channel disposed between said first and second upper angled clamping members.

35. An end post for a panel assembly, the end post comprising:

means for mounting the end post to a panel assembly;

a frame secured to said mounting means, the frame being horizontally adjustable with respect to said mounting means;

at least one side panel horizontally adjustably attached to the frame whereby the side panel is disposed between the frame and the panel assembly.

36. The end post as recited in claim 35, wherein the side panel is attached to the frame such that a vertical space exists between the side panel and said mounting means.

37. The end post as recited in claim 36, wherein the vertical space comprises a cable passageway.

38. The end post as recited in claim 35, wherein two end panels are horizontally adjustably attached to the frame such that said mounting means is disposed between the end panels.

39. The end post as recited in claim 35, further comprising an outer cover removably attached to the frame on a side opposite said mounting means.

40. The end post as recited in claim 39, wherein the frame further comprises a vertical face adapted to receive a connector, whereby a panel may be perpendicularly secured to the frame.

41. A panel assembly for an office furniture system, the panel assembly comprising:

a frame assembly;

a plurality of facing panels, each of said plurality of facing panels including a front side and a mounting side;

means for individually mounting the mounting side of each of said plurality of facing panels to the frame assembly whereby an unobstructed cavity is formed between the frame assembly and the mounting side of each of said plurality of facing panels, and wherein a horizontal joint is formed between each of said plurality of facing panels such that a plurality of horizontal joints are provided at a plurality of vertical heights on the panel assembly; and

means for routing cabling through the panel assembly, such that cables may be disposed in the cavity and a plurality of cable ingress or egress pathways are provided by said plurality of horizontal joints.

42. The panel assembly as recited in claim 41, wherein the frame assembly comprises a plurality of horizontally spaced apart vertical supports having opposing sides, a pair of bottom facing panels, each of said bottom facing panels attached to each of said opposing sides and a crown member attached to a top portion of each of said plurality of vertical supports whereby a box beam structure is fabricated to form the frame assembly.

43. The panel assembly as recited in claim 42, wherein each of said facing panels further comprises a top portion and a bottom portion and said means for individually mounting each of said plurality of facing panels comprises a plurality of support brackets attached to the rigid frame assembly and, each of said plurality of support brackets having means for engaging the mounting sides of the facing panels.

44. The panel assembly as recited in claim 43, wherein the mounting side of said facing panels further comprises a first panel mounting clip attached to the top portion of the mounting side and a second panel mounting clip attached to the bottom portion of the mounting side.

45. The panel assembly as recited in claim 44, wherein each of said plurality of support brackets further comprises top support brackets adapted to be attached to the top portion of said facing panels, bottom support brackets adapted to be attached to the bottom portion of said facing panels, and intermediate support brackets adapted to be attached to the top portion of one of said facing panels and to the bottom portion of another of said facing panels.

46. The panel assembly as recited in claim 45, wherein said plurality of facing panels are mounted between the crown member and said bottom facing panels such that a first horizontal joint exists between one of said facing panels and one of said bottom facing panels and a second horizontal joint exists between another of said facing panels and the crown member.

47. The panel assembly as recited in claim 42, wherein the crown member is adapted to mount accessories thereon.

48. The panel assembly as recited in claim 47, wherein the crown member comprises an upper angled clamping surface, a lower angled clamping surface and an inclined mounting

surface therebetween such that the lower angled clamping surface is generally spaced apart from the rigid frame assembly, the crown member adapted to engage a mounting bracket having a complimentary engagement surface for supporting office furniture accessories thereon.

49. The crown member as recited in claim 48, wherein the crown member is adapted to engage an upmount bracket for upmounting accessories thereon.

50. The crown member as recited in claim 48, wherein the crown member is adapted to engage a downmount bracket for downmounting accessories thereon.

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